

Grapevine

HAPPY HOLIDAY

★ from Travis Air Force Base



Photo by Chris Williams

Living at the Veterans Home of California in Yountville – December 7, 2007

Administrator Updates Us

The GRAPEVINE
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Information-packed Meeting with Members

Facts, figures and plans flew as Marcella McCormack brought members up to speed on significant developments. Most meaningful to us may be the procurement of \$1.75 million for the Yountville Home of the \$2 million which the California Department of Veterans Affairs received for capital equipment improvement. The use of these funds include some projects that will be visible and some which are vital, but behind the scene. Here is a sampling, in no particular order, of the plans, some large, some small:

- Much needed hospital equipment including replacement of mechanical with electric beds;
- Chairs for the Main Dining Room with replacements ready on site;
- Modern ID system to replace your blue cards;
- Boom truck and sidewalk grinder for Plant Operations;
- Furniture to refurnish one Section, with more to come next year.

What you will notice about the grounds is roofs. Creative Arts is nearly complete and will be followed by new roofing for the Hostess House, Section F patio, Section J, and replacement of asbestos shingles on employee houses. Among those 'hidden', but necessary, improvements:

- Upgrading fire alarm system;
- Upgrading the central power plant; and,
- Upgrading telecommunications.

Building projects include:

- Cemetery renovation;
- Memorial Chapel remodel; and
- Bulldoze the laundry building and build a new property building on site; and
- The American Legions is planning to build RV storage which will be restricted and identified by slot.

Deputy Administrator, Bart Buechner, left us with some reminders: moving from the Members Services Building is on schedule. Most events will take place in the Hospital Recreation Area. The new mobile kitchen has arrived and will be placed behind Madison Hall. The library and BX will be moved into the basement of Madison Hall. Remember and attend – the last Grant Hall event will be the New Year's Eve party on December 31st. Be there!



Marcella M. McCormack
Administrator

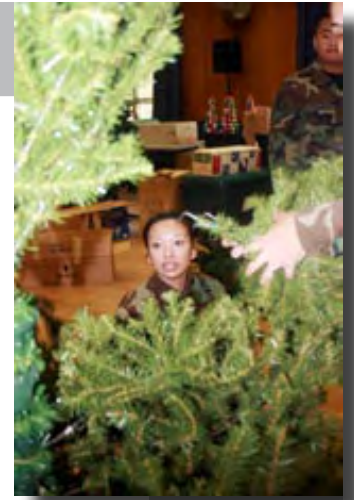
A Treasured Travis Tradition

By Chris Williams; photos by Nancy Bueno, Glen Nock, Chris Williams

So when does the holiday season start? Is it the day after Thanksgiving when shoppers crowd the malls? Nope. How about TV commercials with Santa in them? Nah. Opening of Christmas tree lots? Huh-uh.



For the California Veterans Home it's when the volunteers from Travis Air Force Base arrive with their verve and creativity to decorate the place. Do you think you see them all in the group shot? No, you don't. That's only those who came on the bus. It doesn't include those who drove with spouses who wanted to lend a hand.



The troops fanned out from Holderman and covered the grounds. Decorating wards and the lobby in Holderman just got them warmed up for Creative Arts and the library. Sammy, "Library Dog," was beside himself. Sr. Airman Crystal Moore, who is raising a puppy, went into trainer mode and practiced her skills on Sammy.

Grant Hall served as the staging area for decorations in the Member Services Center. A resident, coming in to observe, patted the wreath hanging on the door. "That's the last wreath we'll see in here for quite a while," he said a bit sadly.



After lunch, Karen Riddle of Activities commanded some of the troops who were to be dispatched to sections. "Handsome men to section H!" she called. "Pretty girls to K!" (note: your reporter, who is excruciatingly politically correct, would never call an airman a "girl.") Her strategy worked. Female residents returning to "H" saw the Travis men stringing lights and began to fan themselves vigorously. "Their blood pressure just went up by forty points," noted deputy Ethyl Stanley.

Continued on page 4





Travis - continued from page 3

Shadows were lengthening when the troops returned to Holderman for the ride home. They looked as fresh and energetic as when they arrived. A tech sergeant broke ranks, came over and said, "Thanks for letting us come." Can you believe it? "Thanks for letting us come!"



Happy Holidays from PIO

KVET TV

Oral History

The Computer School

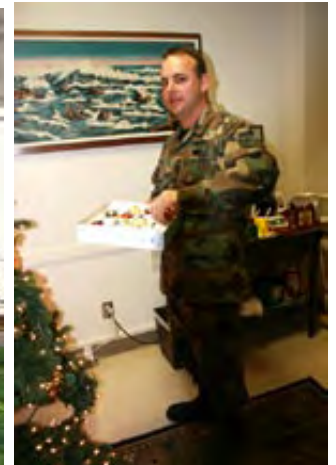
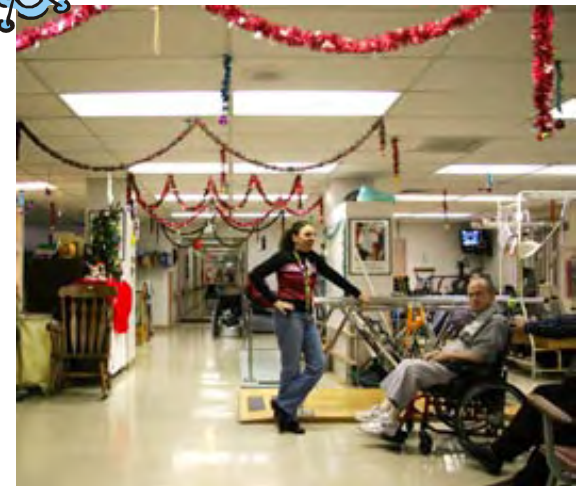
The Grapevine Newsletter



Happy Holidays



December 7, 2007





Thank you, Travis!

As We Remember

Pearl Harbor Day, Sunday, December 7, 1941 – Prelude to War

By Lou Zauner

There are events in everyone's life that have had such profound effect that the smallest detail never leaves the memory. The attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese empire 66 years ago was such an event, and continues to be remembered. That cataclysmic event began a four-year conflict resulting in the death of 476,000 Americans – 470,000 military and 6000 civilians.



GLEN NOCK – “I was stationed at a Marine encampment between Pearl Harbor and Hickam Field. I thought the arriving planes were part of our maneuvers until they flew so low I could see the “Rising Sun” insignia on the fuselages. We managed to shoot down one of the zero's with a rifle.”

DONALD McNABNEY – “I was in a navigation tower aboard the U.S.S. West Virginia when we were attacked. The explosion below me killed four-hundred of our men.”



JAMES SCHULTZ – “I was part of a Marine detachment aboard the Light Cruiser U.S.S. Honolulu, and was on the fantail just after performing a Color Guard ceremony. We weren't hit, but we could see the planes headed for attack on Battleship Row.”



MELVIN MILLER – “I was with the Army Air Corps assigned to Wheeler Army Air Field. I had finished breakfast

and was sitting on the porch of our quarters when we realized we were being attacked. I could see the “red circles” on the planes. We rushed to obtain our guns which were locked in a special closet.”



JAMES DVORAK – “I was with the Navy Air Corps attending duty in one of the hangers when I thought another familiar boiler explosion had occurred. Then we saw the planes overhead pass and rushed for safety to the back of the hanger.”



MERLYN YODER – “I was aboard the U.S.S. Tennessee. I had just left the mess hall and was playing “Acey-Deucey” with a shipmate when a cook ran past and yelled that we had just been attacked. We immediately headed for general quarters”



ment to the U.S.S Enterprise which hadn’t yet arrived at Pearl Harbor. I was in a receiving station washing my dungarees when the attack occurred. Along with others, I rushed to the rooftop of one of the buildings to see the planes hitting ships on Battleship Row. An officer told us to get off the roof since the Japanese were strafing the area. We had bullets just miss us hitting a section of the building below us.”

IVAN BOOKE – “I was an Apprentice Seaman awaiting assign-



KENNETH & DOROTHY ELLIOTT – “Kenneth was assigned to the Pearl Harbor Receiving Station and we were living in a Navy Housing Unit just two blocks from the Main Gate. I had just finished breakfast. Ken was still in bed when I heard the bombs exploding. We both thought it was familiar maneuvers. Then we saw the planes overhead and heard more bombing.”





Deputy Administrator Bart Buechner at the grill; assisted by Tom Peterson.

Art Schua. Look, Art, you're in the Grapevine!



By Lou Zauner

Saturday morning, December 1st, was the big day for the exciting big-screen viewing of the great collegiate football game between Army, the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York; and Navy, the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. The helmet smashing, bone crunching and generally spine bashing battle was televised live from the M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, Maryland.

The football fans included not only Home Members but also members of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 702; Navy League, Marine Corp League; Association of the US Army; motorcycle clubs. The dining tables were filled with guests enjoying the buffet of hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, a vast array of beverage and deserts of cakes and ice cream. Meandering in and out of Grant Hall, the fans found great food and great companionship.

Oh, yes, back to the game. You could say it was somewhat one sided with Navy 38, Army 3. Navy became the first team in the rivalry to win six straight games and clinch the Commander in Chief's Trophy by winning the round-robin series among the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Sincere thanks to the many volunteers and to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund for its support. As for the game ... well, there's always next year.

Living at the Veterans Home of California in Yountville

25 Years of Service to the Veterans Home



Bill Parente; Michaela Parra, Dietary & Food Service; Sharon Parda



Bill Parente; Beth Katzner, Accounting; Lynn Johnson



Lydia Gutierrez, Accounting; Bill Parente



Marie Krein, Nursing; Marcella McCormack



Bill Parente; Susan Frye, Nursing



Bill Parente; Michael Bristow, Nursing



Bill Parente; Clark Hemphill Jr., Pharmacy



Marcella McCormack; Dr. Kurk; Thom-as Valdez, Dental



Bill Parente; Jeanette Marshall, Medical Administrative Services



"Veterans of Foreign Wars" rings in the Holidays

By Lou Zauner

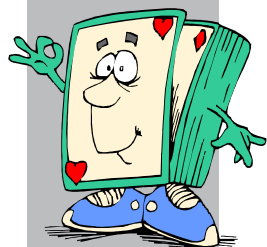
Since 1945 the VFW has brought their Annual Holiday Party to the Veterans Home. On Sunday afternoon, December 2nd, dozens of VFW members, their Auxiliary members and other volunteers arrived to serve egg nog, fruit punch and their vast array of cookies – chocolate, vanilla, crispies – at least 40 different shapes and flavors, including sugar-free varieties.

"The Singing Blue Stars of the USS Hornet" brought back memories of the famous Andrew Sisters who entertained during WWII. The difference? The Sisters were a trio and the Blue Stars are a quartet. The style and songs were the same – "Under the Apple Tree," "Boogie-woogie Bugle Boy," "I'll be Home for Christmas," "White Christmas" – all the old classics.



Thank you, Veterans of Foreign Wars, for your continuing support of the Veterans Home and for this joyful holiday party.

New Pinochle Champions



On Monday evening December 3rd a Home-wide Pinochle Tournament was held in Lee Lounge. A record number of home members participated.

3rd place winners were Dale Oleson and Joe Maynard.

2nd place winners were Cliff Lindsey and Bill Arend.

"The new Champions" in 1st place were John (Squeaky) Bolner and Marty Diamond.

Congratulations to them all!

The Prizes were terrific and the snack were "Outstanding" Hope to see all you Pinochle Players at the next tournament.

Looking Out for #1

Stand up and cheer

Cats, you know, like to keep up with the latest. Brandy has long, slow thoughts and often falls behind. In this month's peer-reviewed journal, *Diabetes*, is some startling information. It came as a surprise even to the researchers. As essential as diet and exercise to losing weight is --- standing up!

It has nothing to do with activity. Instead, the studies found that the body's ability to dispose of fat virtually shuts down when we are sitting. In studies they discovered that while a person is inactive injected fat is immediately absorbed into fatty tissue rather than being burned. Moving the upper body doesn't help much because the big muscles are in the back and legs ... even for us cats. They don't know how long the effect of standing lasts, but say there will be a flood of research on this.

So, their advice can be summed up in one word: *putter*. Instead of spending long hours sitting, stand up once in a while and do ... well, anything. Or nothing. They say you will use up 10% more fat than when you are sitting.

Perhaps you can't bound to your feet the way you used to. I looked into some recommendations from Senior Fitness. When you want to rise, move to the front of your chair, rocking your hips as necessary. Then, fall forward slightly, "until your nose is over your toes" and rise immediately so you can transfer the falling energy into rising energy. If you need a little more help, choose a chair with arms. Then you can grasp the chair arms and assist the muscles of your legs as you rise. The "falling forward to rise" is interesting, and if you want to see it in action, watch cats. I'm always available. When we have a "conniption fit" and bound about the room, we use falling energy to bounce off one object and sail to the next one.

An aesthetic note: falling forward and rising in one smooth movement is very elegant to look at. Elegance is a high priority with us cats.



International Cat Judge Norma Placchi (she's Mom's friend) shows how much thicker and heavier my thigh muscles are compared to my arm muscles. That's why just standing around keeps me thin ... and elegant, of course.

Booksigning benefits VETS

photo by Glen Nock

Home Member George Dorner, who writes under the pen name Joe Lerner, autographed his book *In the Black* on Saturday, December 1 at the Main Dining Room. The \$20 contribution for each book goes to VETS - Veterans Encouraging Troop Support. VETS is the troop support project of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 702, and its purpose is supplying comfort parcels to the frontline troops.



December 7, 2007



Bob Pinckney, Les Cochran, Al Meriano, Ed Hawkins, Patrick Madden (photo by Glen Nock)

Vets Home Golfers enjoy Awards

Recently the Veterans Home Golfers Club had their Annual Awards Banquet in Lee Lounge. An excellent meal was served to approximately 40 golfers and guests.

Besides the golf members of the club, the Administrator Marcella McCormack and her son Patrick attended. Eleven-year-old Patrick belonged with the group as he was awarded a certificate and prizes for his hole-in-one on July 9th at the 8th hole of Vintners Golf Course.

The following tournament winners were awarded certificates for their golf play – Les Cochran: 9-hole Net Match Champion; Ed Hawkins: 18-hole Net Medal Champion; Bob Pinckney: 9-hole 1st Flight Champion; Bruce Holman: Club Champion who shot a 74.

Other honors – club member Al Meriano for his two hole-in-ones that was accomplished within a 3-week time period; Marcella McCormack received an Honorary Membership; and Olin Woods was the big raffle winner – new golf clubs and bag.

On Grounds RV, Boat, or Trailer Storage

Alan E. Jessen, Director Residential Programs

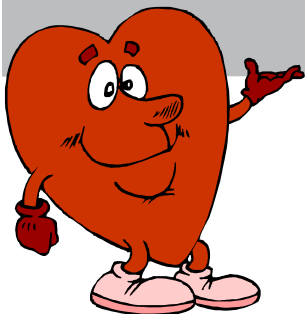
On September 6, 2007 the Executive Committee of the Veterans Home of California, Yountville agreed upon a unified policy for storage of RVs, trailers and boats. This policy requires trailers and boats to follow the same standards for storage as RVs.

All RVs, boats, or trailers in storage at the Veterans Home of Yountville must have either a current Department of Motor Vehicle license plate and sticker or for boats a current Department of Boats and Waterways registration sticker unless it is a self propelled watercraft or sail boat under 8 feet in length. In addition all must have an affixed Veterans Home vehicle sticker.

To obtain a Veterans Home sticker bring title and proof of insurance for the Boat, Trailer, or RV to Security and then Security can provide a Veterans Home Sticker. This sticker is used to identify who owns the item and will be in our Security database.

Any item with no license or unknown owner will be towed to an impound lot starting January 1, 2008. Items without current registration or license will have until February 1, 2008 to comply. After this date items will be towed to an Impound Lot. Fees will be charged to remove items from the Impound Lot.

Again, if we can not identify the owner the item may be towed. Be sure to have a Veterans Home Sticker on it. If you need more time getting the item properly licensed, please contact me.



Vets Home Blood Drive

By Chris Williams

The Veterans Home blood drive in Grant Hall just ended. Lynda Gagne tells us the next one will be in the Hospital Recreation Area on February 15th. You can give a valentine a day late.

It is estimated that 60% of us will require blood transfusion at some time during our lives. Advances in surgery, treatments for cancer and other conditions have increased the need.



Edna Pacheco & Norman Mazzel



Edna Pacheco & Don Liddicoat



Dan Vogelpohl & Gabriel Aras

Thanksgiving in the Main Dining Room



Renae Barret, Michael Barret, Shelby Barret, Stanley Davis II, Deputy Administrator Bart Buechner receives the donation from Travis.



Travis volunteers arrived to serve, visit and help clean up.

Music was provided by Natalie Cox.

December at the Napa Valley Museum



Sat,
Dec 8

2:00 to
4:00 pm

The Art of Scanning with Photographer Ron Rogers, Former Chair of the Napa Valley College Photography Department. The flatbed scanner is a tool we often use for capturing documents or the occasional family photograph. In fact, it can be a flexible and wonderful tool for the artist. Ron will cover the history of scanners, their real world applications and how visual artists work with scanners. You will explore scanner art by contemporary artists and have an entertaining demonstration of scanning and artistic play. Free with admission. Call 707.944.0500 for reservations.

Fri, Dec
14

6:00 to
7:30 pm

Holiday Open House with mezzo-soprano Meghan Scheibal, tenor Nick D'Avila and soprano Naomi Silva Join us at 6:00 PM for a program of early traditional carols with mezzo-soprano Meghan Scheibal, tenor Nick D'Avila and soprano Naomi Silva accompanied by harpsichord. After the concert, sip wine and enjoy hors d'oeuvres while shopping for last-minute gifts in the Museum Store. Members will receive a 20% discount on their purchases during the course of the evening, so bring your friends and give them the gift of membership. Free with admission. Call 707.944.0500 for reservations.



*Pine Cone
Elves are from
the collection
of Paul Stokey
and are part
of the The
Heart & Art
of Collecting
Exhibition on
view through
February 10,
2008.*

The Heart & Art of Collecting Exhibition

An elf is a creature of Germany mythology which still survives in northern Europe. The elves were originally a race of minor nature and fertility gods, who are often pictured as youthful-seeming men and women of great beauty living in forests and underground places and caves, or in wells and springs. They have been portrayed to be long-lived or immortal and as beings of magical powers.

Elf can be pluralized as both elves and elfs. Something associated with elves or the qualities of elves is described by the adjectives elven, elvish, elfin or elfish. According to a convention of modern fantasy, the 'v' in elven or elvish refers to human-sized elves (who correspond more closely to those of the old Germanic paganism), whereas the f in elfin or elfish refers to tiny-sized elfs (who correspond more closely to the folklore of the Renaissance and Romantic Eras).

In the USA, Canada, and Britain, the modern children's folklore of Santa Claus typically includes diminutive, green-clad elves with pointy ears (and, occasionally, long noses) as Santa's assistants or hired workers. No one knows who wraps the gifts at Christmas but they make toys in a workshop located in the North Pole. In recent years, other toys - usually high-tech toys like computers, video games, DVDs and DVD players, and even mobile phones - have also been depicted as being ready for delivery, but not necessarily made, in the workshop as well. In this portrayal, elves slightly resemble nimble and delicate versions of the dwarves of Norse mythology.

LINCOLN Theater

- Sun, Dec 9 5:00 pm ***The Oak Ridge Boys – Christmas Cookies*** Like a fine red wine, The Oak Ridge Boys just get better with time! Theirs is the distinctive and recognizable sound that has spawned dozens of hits, earned them Grammy, Dove, CMA and ACM awards and a host of other accolades. This show serves up a sweet batch of traditional holiday favorites sprinkled with The Oak Ridge Boys classics and country hits.
- Sat, Dec 15 12:30 pm 6:00 pm ***The Nutcracker*** Once more, the Napa Regional Dance Company brings us this wonderful tradition to the Napa Valley. Don't miss this holiday favorite and bring your entire family to enjoy the fun.



Holiday Postal Deadline Approaching

According to the Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA), holiday letters and cards going first-class to military APO/FPO addresses overseas must be sent by Dec. 10 to arrive by Dec. 25, 2007. Each country has customs regulations that apply to all incoming mail, pertaining to everything from food items to reading materials. Military units may also have additional restrictions concerning incoming mail imposed by unit commanders relative to size and weight to ensure logistics support can handle the heavy mail load. And, all packages and mail must now be addressed to individual servicemembers as required by U.S. Department of Defense regulations. For more information, visit the MPSA website at <http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/>

Gifts for 'Any Servicemember'

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service's (AAFES) "Gifts from the Homefront" program makes it possible for anyone to purchase products for "any servicemember" through gift certificates that can be redeemed at exchange facilities worldwide. "Gifts from the Homefront" gift certificates can be sent to deployed troops by logging on to www.aafes.com or calling 877-770-4438. From there, the gift certificates are sent to individual servicemembers (designated by the purchaser) or distributed to "any servicemember" through various military aid organizations.

Find ways to support and honor U.S. military servicemembers and veterans who protect our security and freedom. Visit the Military.com Support our Troops webpage at <http://www.military.com/benefits/resources/support-our-troops>

2008 State Holiday Schedule

Tue, Jan 1	New Year's Day
Mon, Jan 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Tue, Feb 12	Lincoln's Birthday
Mon, Feb 18	Washington's Birthday
Mon, Mar 31	Cesar Chavez Day
Mon, May 26	Memorial Day
Fri, Jul 4	Independence Day
Mon, Sep 1	Labor Day
Mon, Oct 13	Columbus Day
Tue, Nov 11	Veteran's Day
Thu, Nov 27	Thanksgiving Day
Fri, Nov 28	Day after Thanksgiving
Thu, Dec 25	Christmas Day

December 7, 2007

sign up
early



Residential Care Special Events

*Signup available 2 weeks before event. Sign up early! Activities can fill quickly.
All activities are subject to change due to bus and driver availability.*

December 2007

Date	Time	Event	Bus	Site	Signup
8 Sat	7:00 am	Peddlers Faire "Last Chance"		GH	
9 Sun	1:00 pm	American Legion Holiday Party		HRA	
	5:00 pm	The Oakridge Boys		LT	Yes
10 Mon	5:45 pm	Christmas Lights Drive & Pie	MDR		Yes
11 Tue	5:30 pm	GS Warriors vs. San Antonio	MDR		Yes
12 Wed	9:00 am	Allied Council Meeting		GH	
	6-8:00 pm	Boy Scouts Caroling		Hosp	
13 Thu	10:00 am	Remembrance Service		Chp	
	11:30 am	Residential Care Holiday Party		GH	
	1:30 pm	DAR Ladies (only) Tea		GH	Yes
14 Fri	5:45 pm	Christmas Lights Drive & Pie	MDR		Yes
15 Sat	12:30 pm	The Nutcracker		LT	Yes
	1:00 pm	DAV Party		HRA	
	2:30 pm	49ers vs. Cincinnati	MBS		Yes
	6:00 pm	The Nutcracker		LT	Yes
16 Sun	7:30 am	Napa Sr. Center Breakfast	MBS		Yes
	2:00 pm	The Nutcracker		LT	Yes
17 Mon	5:45 pm	Christmas Lights Drive & Pie	MDR		Yes
21 Fri	1:30 pm	East Bay Fellowship Bell Choir		HRA	
	5:45 pm	Christmas Lights Drive & Pie	MDR		Yes
22 Sat	1:30 pm	San Ramon HS Choir		HRA	
31 Mon	6:00 pm	New Years Eve Party – The last event in Grant Hall			

Key – 1C/1D: Hospital 1C/1D patio; **Bor:** Borman Field; **Chp:** Chapel; **GH:** Grant Hall; **GR:** Games Room; **HL:** Hospital Lobby; **HRA:** Hospital Recreation Area; **Lib:** Lincoln Library; **LL:** Lee Lounge; **LT:** Lincoln Theater; **MBS:** Main Bus Stop; **MDR:** Main Dining Room; **MPG:** Main Picnic Grounds; **SF:** San Francisco; **Tav:** Tavern; **VHC:** Veterans Home Cemetery; **VGC:** Vintners Golf Course; **VHL:** Veterans Home Lanes; **XI:** Annex I; **XII:** Annex II; **Ynt:** Yountville; **YVP:** Yountville Veterans Park.

Last Chance for Gifts!

Peddlers Faire

Yes, that's right - the last chance for gifts! Saturday, December 8 at 7:00 am in Grant Hall is the very last Peddlers Faire ... the Members Service Building is closing. Don't miss the last chance to buy those useful, unusual, old and new items for fantastic prices! Be there early!



Living at the Veterans Home of California in Yountville

MOVIE NIGHT

The Wednesday night and Friday night movies have moved to the Hospital Recreation Area. Movies will resume on Friday, November 9th. We look forward to seeing movie-goers at these free showings on our new large screen at our new movie nights in the Hospital Recreation Area.



Fri, Dec 7 – “Sicko”

Good Michael Moore new (2007) documentary takes on the American healthcare system. At times funny but ultimately sobering. Compares current American healthcare programs with European systems. A major contribution to the health care debate.

Wed, Dec 12 – “Fantasia”

1940 original Walt Disney eight part marriage of music and animated images—considered “amazing achievement.” ☆☆☆☆



Fri, Dec 14 – “Hairspray”

New (2007) musical comedy version of 1988 Hollywood film. Nonstop delight—succession of good songs and musical numbers with sweet and funny moments. Stars John Travolta. ☆☆☆



Wed, Dec 19 – “A Christmas Carol”

1951 classic film stars Alastair Sim as Scrooge—heartwarming rendition of Dickens classic. ☆☆☆☆



Fri, Dec 21 – “Evan Almighty”

New (2007) comedy stars Steve Carell and Morgan Freeman. “God” tells a junior congressman to build an ark and various animals begin arriving—two by two. Above average movie for all ages.



Hosp. Rec. Area
Theater doors
open at 5:15 pm
Wednesdays &
Fridays

Special selected
presentations at
5:30 pm

Feature Film
begins at 6:00 pm

The Digital
Theater is
sponsored by the
Veterans
Remembrance
Committee,
The MW&R Fund
and AMVETS

Neil Remnant,
Movie
Coordinator



*The Veterans Home Media Program
gratefully acknowledges the generosity
of the AMVETS Service Foundation in
supporting KVET TV, the Grapevine,
and the Veterans History Program.*

GRAPEVINE

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